

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A fixture for mounting a component to a rack for supporting a plurality of components, comprising:

a first plate having a surface for receiving the component; and

a second plate having a surface for attachment to the rack and cooperating with the first plate to form a combination of mounting plates;

wherein the first plate is pivotally connected to the second plate so that, in a first position, the first plate is adjacent to and in substantial alignment with the second plate and, in a second position, the first plate is rotated to an orientation which laterally projects from the second plate.

2. The fixture of claim 1 wherein the first plate is pivotally connected to the second plate by a connection including a pivot pin extending from one of the mounting plates engaging an aperture formed in another one of the mounting plates.

3. The fixture of claim 2 wherein the connection including the pin and the aperture is positioned at a corner of the mounting plates.

4. The fixture of claim 2 wherein the second position of the first plate is substantially normal to the first position of the first plate.

5. The fixture of claim 2 wherein the first plate and the second plate have a substantially rectangular shape.

6. The fixture of claim 2 which further includes a bearing plate separating the first plate and the second plate.

7. The fixture of claim 6 wherein the bearing plate is formed of a friction-reducing plastic material.

8. The fixture of claim 6 wherein the first plate includes a follower depending from the surface of the first plate, and wherein the bearing plate includes a channel for receiving the follower depending from the first plate.

9. The fixture of claim 8 wherein the channel has an arcuate shape.

10. The fixture of claim 8 which further includes a guide slidably received in the channel, for limiting rotation of the first plate relative to the second plate.

11. The fixture of claim 10 wherein the guide is formed of a friction-reducing plastic material.

12. The fixture of claim 10 wherein the guide further includes at least one tab laterally projecting from the guide, and wherein the channel includes at least one detent for receiving the tab projecting from the guide.

13. The fixture of claim 12 wherein the guide includes an opposing pair of tabs laterally projecting from the guide, and wherein the channel includes an opposing pair of detents for receiving the tabs projecting from the guide.

14. The fixture of claim 13 wherein the pair of tabs engage first ends of the detents when the first plate is in the first position, and wherein the pair of tabs

engage second ends of the detents opposite to the first ends when the first plate is in the second position.

15. The fixture of claim 8 which further includes a locking mechanism coupled with the second plate and having a tip extending through the second plate and into the channel of the bearing plate, for selectively engaging the follower of the first plate.

16. The fixture of claim 1 wherein the second plate further includes a first bracket depending from a first edge of the second plate, and wherein the first bracket includes an aperture for receiving hardware for attaching the second plate to the rack.

17. The fixture of claim 16 wherein the first bracket includes a corner piece extending from an edge of the first bracket, for engaging portions of the rack to support the second plate in position.

18. The fixture of claim 16 wherein the second plate further includes a second bracket depending from a second edge of the second plate adjacent to the first edge, and wherein the second bracket includes a surface for engaging portions of the rack for supporting the second plate in position.

19. The fixture of claim 1 which further includes a locking mechanism coupled with the second plate and having portions extending through the second plate, for selectively engaging the first plate.

20. A fixture for mounting a component to a rack for supporting a plurality of components, comprising:
a first plate having a surface for receiving the

component; and

a second plate having a surface for attachment to the rack and cooperating with the first plate to form a combination of mounting plates;

wherein the first plate is pivotally connected to the second plate by a connection including a pivot pin extending from a corner of one of the mounting plates engaging an aperture formed in a corner of another one of the mounting plates so that, in a first position, the first plate is adjacent to and in substantial alignment with the second plate and, in a second position, the first plate is rotated to an orientation which laterally projects from the second plate.

21. The fixture of claim 20 wherein the second position of the first plate is substantially normal to the first position of the first plate.

22. The fixture of claim 20 which further includes a bearing plate separating the first plate and the second plate.

23. The fixture of claim 22 wherein the first plate includes a follower depending from the surface of the first plate, and wherein the bearing plate includes a channel for receiving the follower depending from the first plate.

24. The fixture of claim 23 wherein the channel has an arcuate shape.

25. The fixture of claim 23 which further includes a guide slidably received in the channel, for limiting rotation of the first plate relative to the second plate.

26. The fixture of claim 25 wherein the guide is formed of a friction-reducing plastic material.

27. The fixture of claim 25 wherein the guide further includes at least one tab laterally projecting from the guide, and wherein the channel includes at least one detent for receiving the tab projecting from the guide.

28. The fixture of claim 27 wherein the guide includes an opposing pair of tabs laterally projecting from the guide, and wherein the channel includes an opposing pair of detents for receiving the tabs projecting from the guide.

29. The fixture of claim 28 wherein the pair of tabs engage first ends of the detents when the first plate is in the first position, and wherein the pair of tabs engage second ends of the detents opposite to the first ends when the first plate is in the second position.

30. The fixture of claim 23 which further includes a locking mechanism coupled with the second plate and having a tip extending through the second plate and into the channel of the bearing plate, for selectively engaging the follower of the first plate.

31. A fixture for mounting a component to a rack for supporting a plurality of components, wherein the rack is comprised of a plurality of supports which combine to define a region for receiving the plurality of components which includes first portions for freely accessing the components, and second portions defining an area of limited access which is at least partially blocked by the supports of the rack, and wherein the fixture comprises:

a first plate having a surface for receiving the component; and

a second plate having a surface attached to the rack and cooperating with the first plate to form a combination of mounting plates;

wherein the first plate is pivotally connected to the second plate by a connection including a pivot pin extending from a corner of one of the mounting plates engaging an aperture formed in a corner of another one of the mounting plates so that, in a first position, the first plate is located within the second portions of the region defined by the plurality of supports, adjacent to and in substantial alignment with the second plate and, in a second position, the first plate is rotated to an orientation which laterally projects from the second plate and which is located within the first portions of the region defined by the plurality of supports.

32. The fixture of claim 31 wherein the second position of the first plate is substantially normal to the first position of the first plate.

33. The fixture of claim 31 which further includes a bearing plate separating the first plate and the second plate.

34. The fixture of claim 33 wherein the first plate includes a follower depending from the surface of the first plate, and wherein the bearing plate includes a channel for receiving the follower depending from the first plate.

35. The fixture of claim 34 wherein the channel has an arcuate shape.

36. The fixture of claim 34 which further includes a guide slidably received in the channel, for

limiting rotation of the first plate relative to the second plate.

37. The fixture of claim 36 wherein the guide is formed of a friction-reducing plastic material.

38. The fixture of claim 36 wherein the guide further includes at least one tab laterally projecting from the guide, and wherein the channel includes at least one detent for receiving the tab projecting from the guide.

39. The fixture of claim 38 wherein the guide includes an opposing pair of tabs laterally projecting from the guide, and wherein the channel includes an opposing pair of detents for receiving the tabs projecting from the guide.

40. The fixture of claim 39 wherein the pair of tabs engage first ends of the detents when the first plate is in the first position, and wherein the pair of tabs engage second ends of the detents opposite to the first ends when the first plate is in the second position.

41. The fixture of claim 33 which further includes a locking mechanism coupled with the second plate and having a tip extending through the second plate and into the channel of the bearing plate, for selectively engaging the follower of the first plate.

42. The fixture of claim 31 wherein the second plate further includes a first bracket depending from a first edge of the second plate, and wherein the first bracket includes an aperture for receiving hardware for attaching the second plate to the rack so that the second plate is located within the second portions of the region defined by the plurality of supports.

43. The fixture of claim 42 wherein the first bracket includes a corner piece extending from an edge of the first bracket, for engaging portions of the rack to support the second plate in position within the second portions of the region defined by the plurality of supports.

44. The fixture of claim 42 wherein the second plate further includes a second bracket depending from a second edge of the second plate adjacent to the first edge, and wherein the second bracket includes a surface for engaging portions of the rack for supporting the second plate in position within the second portions of the region defined by the plurality of supports.

45. The fixture of claim 31 which further includes a locking mechanism coupled with the second plate and having portions extending through the second plate, for selectively engaging the first plate.

46. The fixture of claim 31 wherein the supports include brackets forming a right angle, wherein the first plate and the second plate have a substantially rectangular shape, and wherein the first plate and the second plate are located within the second portions of the region defined by the plurality of supports when the first plate is in the first position.

47. The fixture of claim 31 wherein an end of the component is connectable to the first plate of the fixture.